



PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

www.holyredeemer.church

Growing to and for Christ!

June 2020

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¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it... 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory..." John 1:1-5, 14 NRSV*

Dear Beloved Community of HRLC,

Not much is known about the writer of the fourth Gospel, but one thing is certain – the author blessed the world with these beautiful, soaring poetic images about the Word who became flesh, Jesus. John’s gospel has often been described as the “spiritual gospel,” because it told the story about Jesus in symbolic ways that the other three gospels did not. In the Prologue of John’s gospel, instead of reciting a birth narrative as in Matthew and Luke, John sets the stage of Jesus’ coming into the world with images from the beginnings of time, echoing the book of Genesis. The Word became flesh and lived among us. From the beginning, the Church has always understood itself as an incarnational faith and one that is grounded in a community that gathers around Jesus. Story after story about Jesus and his walk among are about his physical presence and contact with those around him. Beginning with the stories about his baptism, to the stories of healing – the woman with the hemorrhage who touched his cloak, the dying girl whose hand he held, the blind man whose eyes he touched with a mud paste, taking the hand of Peter’s mother-in-law to heal her, touching the lepers and those near death – ours is a tactile faith story. The laying on of hands is an ancient healing action as well as a liturgical practice of our faith.

It is precisely the incarnational nature of our faith that causes us to be starkly and poignantly aware of the difficulties and sadness of not being physically together at this time of the coronavirus pandemic. We understand that our sacraments, Holy Communion and Holy Baptism, are practiced in person, in the flesh if you will, and doing so in the ways we have practiced before the pandemic may be ways that could infect others and spread the virus. Our sacraments, along with the passing of the peace, singing hymns and the liturgies, as well as sharing coffee and treats during our fellowship time and meals for all manner of occasions are problematic.



All the cherished ways we long to be together and love are on hold for the time being. In the midst of that there is the resolute recognition that this is the most loving thing to do in order to keep our loved ones and our neighbors safer during this health emergency. Even though we know this is the right thing to do, it doesn’t lessen our grief and sadness. So, there is lament as well as the realization that we must move forward as we imagine the news ways we are “church” together in this strange time. In June, I’d like to begin safer, outdoor meet-ups with you. Either one-on-one or by couples, please let me know if you have a patio or place that we could meet and visit with appropriate distance to catch up on how you are doing.

For the time being through at least the end of June, we will continue to gather online for Sunday morning worship and for those who are able and would like to gather in smaller groups, we encourage you to try meeting through our Zoom account. Jeff Hand and/or I can help you to gather a group together. Beginning sometime in June, Beth Fowler and I will invite you to gather after Sunday morning worship for a Zoom Coffee Hour. We will provide you with a tutorial in how to Zoom or videoconference. I ask that those of you who are able and when it’s safe to do so, please assist family member and others in connecting to the internet and assist those who may be unfamiliar with these video meeting applications to give it a try. Of course, it’s not the same as being in person. But it is a way to connect, to see and hear one another and to share stories and prayer.

As I've said time and time again, we will get through this and be back together in ways that are still holy, yet safe. Let's continue to walk humbly with our God in these weird times and let us be Church together in new ways. My prayers are *always* with you and I am only a phone/video call, text, email or message away!

Though we are apart, we are united in the Christ Jesus and his saving love,
Pastor Jayne Thompson

Council Corner

Holy Redeemer's Council met via Zoom conference call on Thursday, 14 May at 7:00 p.m.

Suspension: Executive Committee recommended continued suspension of all church activities. Following swift consensus discussion turned to demographics and most suitable target dates. It is a blessing that we have members wanting to worship now in our church. We all feel this way. Our decision to stay closed is with heavy hearts, but necessary, agreed and voted by entire council. To better coincide with the Council Meeting schedule, and to avoid the need for a special Council session when the opportunity arrives, the decision was made to continue the suspension of all church activities until the **end of June**.

Council will re-evaluate at their regularly scheduled meeting on 11 June 2020 (also via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.).

Finances: Financial secretary, Nicole Hubbell, reported "very nice donations" during the month of April, but we were short of our total budgeted income goal by \$1,250.50. We exceeded the building fund goal by \$103, but fell short of general fund goal by \$1,353.50. Treasurer, Patrick Tomlin, reported that expenses were relatively low, allowing him to move \$561.38 to the Contingency Fund.

Office Remains Closed

As we all shelter in place, the church office remains officially closed. You can reach Pastor by email

(pastor@holyredeemer.church), text or cell phone: 320-492-6377. She will get back to you as soon as she is able! Admin Assistant, Jeff Hand can also be reached by email (secretary@holyredeemer.church), text or cell phone: 319-899-7688. Jeff continues to stop at church daily to process mail, check voice mail, and handle the limited tasks that cannot be done from home. If you need to stop by the church, please contact Jeff to make arrangements.



SE Iowa Synod

Synod Assembly Rescheduled

Synod Assembly has been rescheduled for August 7th and 8th, 2020 at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines. This may result in additional expense, as our budget was based on the assembly being held in Iowa City with no need for accommodations.

Additional Information

For more information from our synod, visit <https://seiasynod.org/>. There you can find weekly newsletters (<https://seiasynod.org/news-events/news/>), messages from Bishop Burk, and a number of resources related to COVID-19 (<https://seiasynod.org/covid-19/>).

Outreach

Mission of Hope Thank You

The Outreach Committee wishes to thank members of Holy Redeemer for their generous donations to our Mission of Hope fund. Over \$1,200 has been donated. We are overwhelmed and grateful for your generosity.



In March, the Mission closed its dining room because of the pandemic. At that time, they requested only sack lunches be served. For the months of April and May, we purchased sack lunches from Zio Johnno's at a cost of \$5.00 per bag. We purchased a total of 225 lunches. We were concerned about the cost, but felt we had no choice. Now that the state is starting to open up, we contacted the Linn County Health Department and learned that we can assemble sandwiches in the church kitchen. We cannot make/bake a meal. Beginning with the June 18th meal, we will be providing our own sack lunches. Gloves & masks must be worn while assembling the sandwiches.

All equipment we use must be sanitized. Instructions were given as to how to do this. The lunches will contain turkey or ham sandwiches, an apple, and a bag of chips. Mission of Hope will not reopen their dining room until restaurants are allowed to operate at 100% capacity.

Our thanks and appreciation to all who have contributed to our Mission of Hope fund. We could not provide this outreach without your help!

Our next scheduled Mission meal is set for Thursday, June 18.

Thank you!

The Outreach Committee: Arlan, De, Loretta, Nicole, Jan and Judy

4th Sunday Offering

In June, our designated fourth Sunday offering is scheduled for June 28. The proceeds from this offering will go to **Ronald McDonald Family Room at Unity Point/St. Luke's Hospital.**

"When a child is critically ill, parents are reluctant to leave the hospital, yet they desperately need a break from the ongoing stress of beeping monitors and busy intensive care units. A Ronald McDonald Family Room offers a special place of respite, relaxation and privacy within hospital walls. It provides a small oasis of calm and normalcy within the tense, chaotic, medical setting - yet parents are just steps from their child's bedside."

Linn Community Food Bank

"The Linn Community Food Bank continues to serve the community! We are giving away a 3-day supply of food (pre-packed in a paper grocery bag) to individuals from 1:00-3:00, Monday through Friday, in the parking lot of First Presbyterian Church. ... Donations are needed more than ever right now!"

Our next Food Bank weekend (2nd Sunday of the month) is scheduled for June 14.

How to Give to Special Offerings

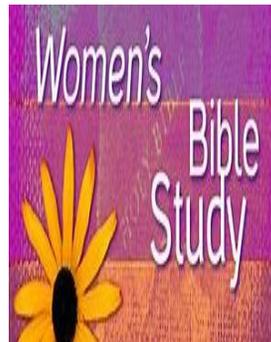
With worship services and other activities suspended, you may wonder how to give to Ronald McDonald Family Room or Linn Community Food Bank. When submitting your offering, simply indicate on your offering envelope, the memo line of your check, or in a separate note. Counters will ensure it gets the proper designation and funds will

be sent to the organizations. Thank you for your generous support.

Adult News

Women's Bible Study

The Bible study for June is: ***Just Love*** by Christa Compton & Gladys Moore.



Session #1 is: "In the Family: What's love got to do with it?" Theme verses are: **John 11:1-6, 17-36.**

(Copies are available in the WELCA notebook on the shelf under the women's bulletin board.) If you would like an email copy, please contact Jeff Hand, Administrative Assistant.

WIGS (Book Discussion Group)

As with all group activities, WIGS is unable to meet at the church. However, this is an ideal time to read.

The book for the month is: ***The Wedding Gift*** by **Marien Suyapa Bodden.**

All are welcome to join us. The reading list for 2020 can be found on the Women's bulletin board.



DUO (Do Unto Others) Day

Thanks to all who help with the quilt sewing! Sewing at home is the name of the game – if you need fabric or batting, help yourself in the quilt room. We thank all who have been sewing masks as well as quilts!



Let's Do Lunch

Will not meet in June



Stephen Ministry A Grief Resource

People all over are struggling with grief right now, often without the in-person care they might normally have received. Others are doing their best to offer care within the boundaries of social distancing.

To help with their efforts, Stephen Ministries St Louis has created a new online resource called [“Caring for Grieving People during the COVID-19 Crisis.”](#)

If you would like to read this resource, go to stephenministries.org. At the top of the webpage you will see a yellow banner called ‘A Message about COVID-19’. Clicking on this banner will bring you to the page titled Stephen Ministries Communications Related to COVID-19. The May 16, 2020 entry there includes the new grief resource.

Here are some principles from the resource that may be helpful to anyone who might be caring for a relative, neighbor, co-worker or friend who has lost a loved one during this already stressful time.

“Even when you can’t offer care in person, there are still ways to be a light in the darkness of someone’s grief.

- Be there emotionally for the person.
- Use the phone or video chat.
- Encourage the honest expression of feelings.
- Listen and validate.
- Avoid platitudes or other words that discount the person’s feelings.
- Let the person know that it’s okay to grieve.
- Be there for the long term.

Even though it’s not the same as in-person care, these behaviors can make a big difference to someone who’s grieving, especially during these times when people may be feeling very alone.”

Anyone, in a caring way, can ask how the grieving person is really doing. Ask what they’re thinking and feeling, and show that you’re willing to listen. As you do, by God’s grace, you will be sharing His love with them.

‘A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another’ Jn 13:34

From LSI: Happy Father’s Day

At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we strive to build up and empower Iowa kids and families. For us, Father’s Day is a time to celebrate all the fathers and male role models we see every day.

Through our Early Childhood Services, young men are learning to become dads. They’re becoming confident and active in their child’s life, and they are creating loving, bright futures for their families.

Many Iowa children entering foster care need a positive male role model in their lives. And through LSI Foster Care and Adoption, our licensed foster dads are there to help guide them.

This is only possible through your support of LSI! If you would like to make a gift, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!



Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and Facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Creating Her Community

Paulynn had a dream of what she wanted in life: lots of friends, a job she loved, a healthy lifestyle, and a sense of community.

But it was difficult for Paulynn to leave the apartment she shared with her dad, Lee. Though Lee had dedicated his life to serving as his daughter’s primary caregiver, they didn’t have reliable transportation that could accommodate her wheelchair. And Paulynn’s risk of seizures meant she always needed to be accompanied by her dad.

Despite the obstacles, Lee was determined to give his daughter the life she dreamed of. He enrolled her in LSI’s Services for People with Disabilities. Fifteen years later, Paulynn’s dream has become a reality.

Through LSI, Paulynn's team provides transportation that allows her to travel to and from her apartment with ease. While Paulynn is out, Lee is able to take a well-deserved break from his caregiving role.

With support from LSI, Paulynn is able to give back to her community. Each week, she helps package meals for individuals in need. She has created a community of her own through her volunteer work. And for every moment, her LSI team is there to support her.

"We're very grateful for LSI," Lee says. "They've been really great supporting my daughter."

Senior Saints

No current activities scheduled. Watch your email, the website, and the newsletter for updates.

No Fellowship Events Scheduled

Look for future announcement from the Fellowship committee when line dancing and other events may resume.

In Our Prayers



Pastor Jayne's nephew, Jacob, her sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Galen, and their whole family. Jacob was involved in an accident while riding his motorcycle, sustaining burns and a broken pelvic bone. Jacob

is being treated at UC Davis Hospital in Sacramento.

Hospitalized Members

If you should become hospitalized, please remember to let the hospital know you are a member of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church when you are admitted or have someone contact the office. While Pastor Jayne may not be able to visit, she can call and our prayer chain would be happy to keep you in prayer.

Thanks from Ronna Krueger

Thank You for all the cards I have received from the congregation, their sympathy, their concern, their encouragement and their praise. I have appreciated all the cards I have received.

From the Admin Desk: Working Hours

Several of you have asked or expressed concern about my working hours – apparently I send emails at odd hours of the day and folks want me to know that I'm not meant to be on call 24 hours a day. I appreciate those concerns, but want to assure everyone that all is good.

With the office closed, I typically work at home from around 8:30 am to noon. Depending on my mood (hunger), I may grab lunch before heading over to the church around 1:00. While at the church, I take care of the mail, return any voice messages, call the hospitals, and do any required printing and scanning for the day. (This list is not all-inclusive, but covers the main things that happen every day.) I'm typically done by 3:00.



However, after nearly 10 years as a full-time telecommuter in software development, certain old habits live on.

First, it is a rare evening that I don't have my laptop or phone open for one purpose or another. This is most often for personal communication, reading or other hobbies. But as a problem-solver, unresolved work issues often linger in the back of my mind. If inspiration comes, I simply go with it.

Second, it has become my habit to check email late in the evening. If an email requires no answer or I can answer it quickly, it is one less thing for tomorrow. If it is something more involved, I flag it as a To Do for the next day.

Many productivity experts recommend not looking at email first thing in the morning. That doesn't work for me, but by doing an email check the night before, I can make a quick check for anything that may have arrived after midnight and then move right into my To Do list. So, it really helps me manage my day.

Outside of that, I sometimes deal with insomnia and would rather do something more productive than stare at my ceiling.

For those that have asked, I do appreciate your concern, but have no fear; I do know how to rest and to say "no" if the situation warrants.

God's peace,
Jeff

Youth News

High School Graduate Gift Application Letters

This year we had two outstanding high school graduates eligible for a graduate gift from Holy Redeemer! The graduates are: Matt Hand and Jackson Sickelka. Below is the letter of application from Matt Hand:

Matt Hand

Hello! My name is Matt Hand and I will soon be graduating from Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids. After high school I plan to attend Drake University in Des Moines to study actuarial science.

My family and I have been HRLC members for my entire life, so the church means a lot to me and has given me many good memories. Before I could even talk, I sat in the blue church pews on Sunday morning, and as I grew older, I began to participate more in the church.

In my elementary and middle school years, I attended Sunday School and WinGs, having fun with friends while learning about God's love. Later, I was confirmed at Holy Redeemer, reaffirming my faith with the help of many loving people supporting me from the congregation. During high school, I began to embrace the many opportunities Holy Redeemer offered to serve others in my community, including packing meals for those in need and purchasing Christmas gifts for children who may not have otherwise received them. Overall, Holy Redeemer has allowed me to build my faith through worship and service while creating lasting friendships and memories that I will cherish forever.

I plan to carry the lessons I have learned from HRLC with me as I enter the next phase of my life by continuing to serve my community and serve God through my actions and words. I credit Holy Redeemer with helping me develop into who I am today, and I will not forget my roots when I embark on my next journey in life.

—Matt Hand

Successful Grad Caravan

A big "Thank You!" to all those who organized and participated in the Holy Redeemer Grad Caravan. Fourteen festively decorated cars, 28 people, and 2 dogs paraded from church through portions of NW Cedar Rapids, NE Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha, a different portion of NE Cedar Rapids, and SE Cedar Rapids. It was a warm afternoon, but the rains held off to make for a very enjoyable cruise around town. Along the way, hazard lights flashed and horns honked at the homes of our 2020 graduates (Ashby Renner, Jackson Sickelka, Matt Hand, Valarie Davidson, Tammy and Curtis Hansen, and Hannah Van Buren). Balloons and cards were (safely) delivered to each of the graduates and none of the caravaners were lost in the process. (For video highlights, check out our Holy Redeemer Facebook page.)



Valarie Davidson



Matt Hand



Ashby Renner



Hannah Van Buren

Not pictured: Curtis Hansen, Tammy Hansen, and Jackson Sickelka

From **Tammy Hansen**: Thank you so much to everyone in the congregation for the drive-by graduation celebration! It was SO very awesome to see all of your smiling faces. And thank you so much for the box of cards, AND for including the old geezers in the celebration! Curtis and I were truly touched!!



Future Events

June 2020

Note: All activities in our building are suspended through June 30; Ministry of the Month has been excluded.

Jun 2 (Tue)	Bible Study (via email)
Jun 4 (Thu)	6:30 pm Executive Mtg (Zoom) Committees (TBD - chairpersons)
Jun 7 (Sun)	9:00 am Worship (FB Live)
Jun 9 (Tue)	Bible Study (via email)
Jun 10 (Wed)	11:00 am Pastor & SM meeting (Zoom)
Jun 11 (Thu)	7:00 pm Council Meeting (Zoom)
Happy Father's Day!	
Jun 14 (Sun)	9:00 am Worship (FB Live) Food Bank Weekend

Jun 16 (Tue)	Bible Study (via email)
Jun 18 (Thu)	Mission of Hope Meal
Jun 19 (Fri)	Newsletter Deadline
Jun 21 (Sun)	9:00 am Worship (FB Live)
Jun 23 (Tue)	Bible Study (via email)
Jun 28 (Sun)	9:00 am Worship (FB Live) 4 th W/E Offer'g/Ronald McDonald Family Room
Jun 30 (Tues)	Bible Study (via email)

July and August 2020

July 2:	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Executive Meeting 7:00 p.m. Committee Meetings
July 3:	Holiday – Office Closed
July 4:	Independence Day
July 5:	9:00 a.m. Worship
July 6:	6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision
July 7:	9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:30 p.m. Card Players 3:00 p.m. Bible Study
July 8:	11:00 a.m. Pr. & SM meeting
July 9:	9:30 a.m. WiGS 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
July 12:	9:00 a.m. Worship Food Bank Weekend 10:15 a.m. Fellowship
July 14:	3:00 p.m. Bible Study
July 15:	9:00 a.m. Sr Saints Coloring @ Scooters
July 16:	Mission of Hope Meal
July 19:	9:00 a.m. Worship
July 20:	6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision Newsletter Deadline
July 21:	12:30 p.m. Card Players 3:00 p.m. Bible Study
July 23:	11:30 a.m. Let's Do Lunch 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Blood Drive @ HRLC
July 26:	9:00 a.m. Worship 4 th W/E offering – Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity Coffee with Council
July 28:	9:30 a.m. DUO Day 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

Aug 2:	9:00 a.m. Worship
Aug 3:	6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision
Aug 4:	9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:30 p.m. Card Players 3:00 p.m. Bible Study
Aug 6:	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Executive Meeting 7:00 p.m. Committee Meetings
Aug 7:	SE Iowa Synod Assembly
Aug 8:	SE Iowa Synod Assembly
Aug 9:	9:00 a.m. Worship Food Bank Weekend
Aug 11:	3:00 p.m. Bible Study
Aug 12:	11:00 a.m. Pr. & SM meeting
Aug 13:	9:30 a.m. WiGS 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
Aug 16:	9:00 a.m. Worship
Aug 17:	6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision
Aug 18:	12:30 p.m. Card Players 3:00 p.m. Bible Study
Aug 19:	9:00 a.m. Sr Saints Coloring @ Scooters
Aug 20:	Mission of Hope Meal Newsletter Deadline
Aug 23:	9:00 a.m. Worship 4 th W/E offering – Take Away Hunger
Aug 25:	9:30 a.m. DUO Day 3:00 p.m. Bible Study
Aug 27:	11:30 a.m. Let's Do Lunch
Aug 30:	9:00 a.m. Worship 5 th W/E offering – ELCA Campus Ministries



Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church
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Church Office Hours
Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Worship Services
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.



*If we live by the Spirit, let us also
be guided by the Spirit.*

Galatians 5:25 (NRSV)



Holy Redeemer
Lutheran Church

Join us as we grow to and for Christ!!!